

THE TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

and

THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
PLANT MATERIALS PROGRAM

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF OVERTON R18 ROSE CLOVER VARIETY

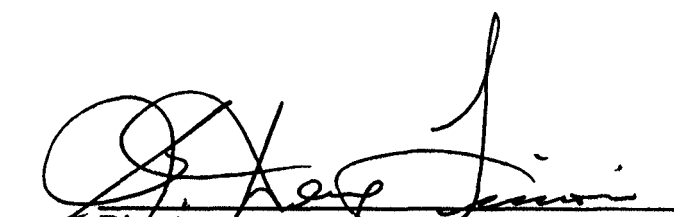
'Overton **R18**' rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum* All.) was developed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with the ~~soil~~ Conservation Service, and will be released in **1991**.

~~This~~ cultivar is a seed increase of a single plant selected from a mixed line (PI **311483**) introduced ~~from~~ Spain. This selection was made in **1983** at Overton, **TX** from a spaced-plant field of four **rose** clover plant introductions (PI **287973**, PI **311483**, PI **287975** and PI **311485**) and 'Wilton' rose clover. Nineteen rose clover plants were identified with superior cold tolerance, high forage potential (based on rating scale that included leafiness, height, and profuse ~~tillering~~), and late maturity. These **19** pure line selections were evaluated for forage potential **and** maturity in **1984** and **10** superior lines identified. These ten elite rose clover breeding lines were evaluated for forage production at multiple locations in Texas each year from **1985** to **1989**. Overton **R18** rose clover was shown to have a longer, later, and more productive seasonal distribution of forage than the rose clover check varieties 'Kondinin' and 'Hykon'. Overton **R18** was slightly less productive than Kondinin or Hykon at the early season harvests, but often produced twice as much ~~dry~~ forage as the rose clover checks in the mid and late season harvests. Total season production of Overton **R18** rose clover averaged **65** percent more than Kondinin over **14** location-year environments. Forage quality of this new clover cultivar is high. Protein level of Overton **R18** rose clover was consistently above 20% from plots harvested three times in each of three years at Overton, **TX**. The average

daily gain of **steers** grazing Overton R18 rose clover **in** 1989 was **3.5 lbs/day** compared to **3.2** and 3.3 lbs/day for crimson **and** arrowleaf, respectively.

Overton **R18** rose clover is a widely adapted, reseeding, winter annual forage legume. It will tolerate soil **pH** ranging from 6.0 to **7.5**. In east Texas, Overton R18 rose clover will flower **in** early May and mature seed by mid-June. Overton R18 rose clover is drought tolerant **but** unadapted to wet, poorly drained sites. This annual clover will be useful in overseeding warm-season perennial **grass** pastures **on** well-drained upland and prairie soils **in the eastern one-half of Texas and across the U.S. Southern Region.**

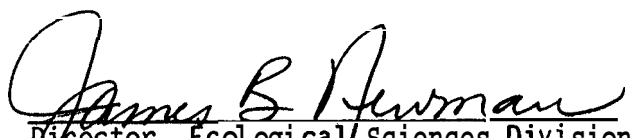
Breeder and foundation seed will be maintained by cooperative agreement through the Soil Conservation Service and the Texas Foundation Seed Service, College Station, TX **77843.**


To, Director
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

1 Apr 91
Date

 **ACTING**
State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service, Texas

APR 24 1991
Date


Director, Ecological Sciences Division
SCS, Washington, DC

June 27, 1991
Date